

April 21, 2009

Meeting held at Center Park

(These responses include written responses provided by blind and deaf/blind participants)

Housing

- need more housing for handicapped and low-income
- also need low-income housing such as condos for the physically disabled
- need housing that is accessible & affordable especially for families and those with caregivers (2 bedroom units)
- utilities should be included in the rent
- apartments and condos including businesses, restaurants, coffee shops
- more wheelchair accessible housing
- keep the same mix as now

Character (now)

- fast food
- Starbucks
- great bus service
- the lake, parks, and BBQ

Character (in future we would like)

- restaurant, diner, buffet"
- store for one-stop shopping such as Fred Myer, Target
- coffee spots (like Starbucks) that are open later in the evening
- easy pedestrian access
- businesses accessible to wheelchairs
- theater
- dollar store
- pedestrian skyway over Rainier
- 2nd hand shop, Value Village
- pet store
- book store & video store
- more artwork, murals, rock and water fountains (more visual interest)
- need more accessibility for disabled and blind people
- more stores

Pedestrian Concerns

- better traffic enforcement (cars don't yield to pedestrians)
- sidewalks – better, accessible, gentle grades (no sudden curbs or drops), wider especially on
- West side of Rainier, tree roots can raise sidewalks
- don't like when cafes encroach on sidewalk (blind & wheelchairs need clear path that is wide as the rest of sidewalk)
- bus shelters can take up too much of the sidewalk – I like the ones with an awning & leaning bar
- like at Benaroya Hall

Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop with People Living with Disabilities Community

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- bus shelters need to leave room for the people exiting the bus, sometimes are too close to curb
- unmaintained trees and stumps are a problem
- currently sidewalks are poorly maintained
- like bus shelters with seats
- signal timing is often too short, especially MLK/Rainier where cars making right-hand turns are
- a problems for the blind and slow walkers
- audible traffic signals can be a problem because they sound like birds, I like the audible signals
- need awnings on buildings
- more streetlights – need to be brighter and energy efficient
- need more buses to stop at the high school, the students jam the sidewalks after school as they
- go to catch the bus
- by the Pepsi bottling building the trucks often block the sidewalks and those sidewalks are narrow and dirty
- when walking, there are many pedestrian/vehicle potential conflicts because of driveways --
- would like fewer curb cuts (driveways) and fewer two-way left turn lanes
- need a clear pedestrian path from sidewalk to front door of business
- need a network of sidewalks
- need to feel safe, the area should be clean
- need public restrooms
- drivers need to be reminded to be alert, watch out for pedestrians and cyclists
- need better lighting, bright lights
- would like rails along sidewalks so easier to guide (for blind persons)

Parks

- need a P Patch -- good for the community, should be accessible (easy to get to and with raised beds)
- need more green space
- people don't know where local parks are
- need accessible restrooms
- need more flowers and trees

Transportation

- we travel now by bus, taxi, taxi-van, Center Park's own bus, volunteer transportation services
- for seniors, ACCESS bus
- concern over potential changes in bus routes due to light rail
- want the stops announced
- need public restrooms at light rail stations or nearby
- to get to light rail station we will wheel, walk, or use Center Park's bus, but crossing Rainier will
- be a problem

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Business center near light rail station

- should be accessible, also with signs in Braille
- shops that offer technology items/aides for the disabled
- would like a branch of Sight Connections (store)
- employment, shops, and service centers close to light rail station

Misc.

- we want to know if light rail cars will have tie-downs for wheel chairs
- we would like a Councilmember to meet with us